

MONTHLY UPDATES, AUGUST 2011

Fifth PPSC Meeting held



The Fifth Public-Private Stakeholders Committee (PPSC) meeting was held on 17 August 2011 at the NEC Conference Room II of the Planning Commission Campus at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka. Honorable Planning Minister and Chairperson of the Committee, Air Vice Marshall (Retd.) A K Khandker presided over the meeting. Mr. Zikrul Hossain, Executive Engineer, Road & Highways Department, Mr. Iftekhar from Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), Mr. Md. Shahidur Rahman, Additional Director General of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) presented papers on third party engagement in the public procurement in the respective organizations.

The PPSC was formed under the auspices of Public Procurement Reform Project – II (PPRP-II) to devise a third party monitoring mechanism for public procurement in Bangladesh. It consists of representatives from academic institutions, business community, think-tanks and civil society organizations along with government officials. IGS provides technical assistance to the Committee in association with the Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) of the IME Division of the Ministry of Planning.

ANSA Workshop on Social Accountability Tools

The Affiliated Network for Social Accountability- East Asia Pacific (ANSA-EAP), in collaboration with the Global Partnership Fund (GPF), housed at the Institute of Governance Studies, hosted a workshop on ‘Social Accountability Tools’ for its partner organizations from 3-7 August 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand. The objective of the workshop was to promote social accountability approaches and tools among citizen groups in the region. The activity was aimed at facilitating a regional learning and capacity building event to strengthen ANSA-EAP’s network partners’ capacity to monitor government performance by using citizen report cards (CRC) and community scorecards (CSC). Dr. Gopakumar K Thampi, Chief Operating Officer, ANSA-SAR was the key resource person of the event. Twenty-three social accountability practitioners from Cambodia, Indonesia, Mongolia, East Timor, and the Philippines participated in the workshop.



ANSA COO visited Sri Lanka

Dr. Gopakumar Thampi, Chief Operating Officer of ANSA-SAR, gave a presentation for the members of the Sri Lankan Evaluation Association (SLEvA) on 20 August 2011 at the Sri Lankan Institute of Development Administration on the theme: “Interrogating Evaluation: Moving beyond the ‘technique’ to ‘politics’”. SLEvA was established in 1999 to address a long felt need for establishing an evaluation culture in the Sri Lankan society and the membership includes a wide cross-section of professionals from academia, international agencies, public, NGO and private sectors. The presentation profiled existing critiques and challenges to the concept and praxis of evaluation and proceeded to highlight the emergence of an ‘audit society’. The presentation drew upon examples and case studies from social accountability tools and approaches and made out a case for integrating these within traditional frameworks of evaluation.

Dr. Thampi also gave a presentation to the staff of the World Bank Office in Colombo on the activities of ANSA. The presentation focused on ANSA SAR’s current work in Sri Lanka and explored ways of integrating some of the tools and approaches into the Bank’s operations in Sri Lanka.

Dr. Thampi trained citizen report cards (CRC) Implementation Team on the methodology and approach of Citizen Report and also helped The Asia Foundation Sri Lanka’s (TAF-SL) to draft a CRC Roll-Out Strategy. The CRC Implementation consists of faculty from Colombo University, TAF-SL representatives and a senior representative from the Ministry of Local Government.

IGS Director delivered Lectures on Public Sector Reforms

Dr. Rizwan Khair, Director In-charge of the IGS, delivered two lectures on 'Public Sector Reforms' in the Advanced Course for Administration and Development (ACAD) and the Senior Staff Course (SSC) in August 2011. ACAD is offered for Deputy Secretaries and SSC for Joint Secretaries of the Government by the Bangladesh Public Administration Training Center (BPATC).